

## THE FAMILY-GROUP NAMES BASED ON THE NAME OF THE GENUS *ELMIS* LATREILLE (COLEOPTERA)

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ABSTRACT—The names Elminthidae, Helminthidae, etc. are considered unjustified, and the proper stem for family-group names is *Elm-*, forming Elmidae, Eliminae, etc.

Several authors, some as recent as Delève (1973), have referred to a family of water-beetles by the name Elminthidae or Helminthidae, although based upon the genus-name *Elmis* Latreille, cited in the Agassiz, Schulze, and Neave nomenclators as of 1802, but by some authors as of 1798. Steffan (1961) gives a lengthy synonymy of the family name, under the form Elminthidae, beginning with Elmidae Shuckard and Spry, 1840, and going through Elmissiens Mulsant and Rey, Helmides Grouvelle, Helminthinae Ganglbauer, etc. to Elmidae Sanderson, 1959.

There seems substantial agreement that the name proposed by Latreille was *Elmis*, and that he referred to it as derived from Greek *hēlmis* (classical Latin transcription by me). Inasmuch as the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (Art. 32.a.ii) does not consider incorrect transliteration or improper latinization as a justified basis for emendation, it is clear that the name upon which family-group names should be based is *Elmis* and not *Helmis* or *Helmins*.

I have been able to find the word *hēlmis*, from which the name *Elmis* is derived by transcription without the "rough breathing" indicated by the letter *h*, only in the Liddell and Scott unabridged Greek-English lexicon (Jones, 1940) under *hēlmis*, where it is cited as a variant: . . . "also nom. *hēlmis* Arist IIA602<sup>b</sup>26; acc. *hēlmitha* IG4.952.10, 18; nom. pl. *hēlmeis* Dsc. *Eup.*2. 67; dat. *hēlmisi* Opp. H.3.180; also gen. *hēlmingos* Hp. *Epid.*1.26.1b': - worn." (my literal transcription). This variant is thus declined differently from the usual *hēlmis*, the genitive of which is *hēlminthos* in literal transcription and *hēlminthis* in classical Latin transcription. The only clues to the stem of the word are in other cases than the genitive (except for the wholly irregular or erroneous *hēlmingos*), and in none of the recorded usages does a stem *hēlminth-* occur. Perhaps, from the evidence of the accusative *hēlmitha*, the word had the genitive stem *hēlmith-* (or *elmith-*), one that apparently has never been used to form family-group names based on *Elmis*.

There is, therefore, no good basis for treating the word otherwise

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than as a regular 3rd declension Latin word in the same way the Romans treated *basis*, also a word of Greek origin; that it, to consider its genitive as *helmis* or *elmis* (stem *helm-* or *elm-*), the same as the nominative. This results in the family-group names Elmidae, Elminae, Elmini, etc., those used certainly by far most often and including the first family-group name proposed.

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#### REFERENCES

- Delève, J. 1973. Elminthidae of Liberia (Coleoptera). Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash. 86(24):299-314.
- Jones, H. S. 1940. A Greek-English lexicon, compiled by Henry George Liddell . . . and Robert Scott . . . 9th ed., revised. Oxford Univ. Press, London.
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### NEW SYNONYMIES AND COMBINATIONS IN NORTH AMERICA BRUCHIDAE (COLEOPTERA)

To provide correct names for biological and ecological studies currently underway in North American Bruchidae, the following changes in status are necessary:

*Acanthoscelides flavescens* (Fahraeus), In Schönh. Gen. Curc. 5, 1839, p. 36 (*Bruchus*).

*Bruchus ochraceicolor* Pic, Echange 29, 1913, p. 10. NEW SYNONYMY.

*Bruchus ochraceus* Schaeffer, Bull. Brooklyn Mus. 1, 1907, p. 303 (not Baudi, 1886).

*Acanthoscelides argillaceus* (Sharp), Biol. Centr.-Amer., Coleop. 5, 1885, p. 452 (*Bruchus*).

*Bruchus armitagei* Pic, Mel. Exot.-Entom. 58, 1931, p. 35. NEW SYNONYMY.

*Acanthoscelides obreptus* Bridwell, Rev. Chilena Hist. Nat. 44 (1940) 1942, p. 256.

*Mimosestes immunis* (Sharp), loc. cit., p. 474 (*Bruchus*). NEW COMBINATION.

*Merobruchus columbinus* (Sharp), loc. cit., p. 474 (*Bruchus*). NEW COMBINATION.

*Merobruchus solitarius* (Sharp), loc. cit., p. 456 (*Bruchus*). NEW COMBINATION.

*Stator championi* (Sharp), loc. cit., p. 477 (*Bruchus*). NEW COMBINATION.

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